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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [IZ](#) [SY](#) [JO](#)  
SUBJECT: TERRORISM TRIALS UPDATE

REF: A. AMMAN 7277  
[B](#). AMMAN 4685  
[C](#). AMMAN 2118  
[D](#). AMMAN 6824

[1](#). (SBU) SUMMARY: Jordan's State Security Court (SSC) handed down sentences in six terrorism-related cases and began proceedings against Nabil Ahmad Issa Jaaoura, a Jordanian who allegedly killed a British tourist at Amman's Roman Amphitheater in early September, and Ziyad Khalaf Karbouli, an Iraqi charged with murdering a Jordanian citizen in Iraq in September 2005. The SSC continued proceedings against seven alleged al-Qaida militants in the Queen Alia airport plot, and revealed that it would announce verdicts for the Azmi Jaiousi prison-break plot on November 1. END SUMMARY.  
RISHAWI SENTENCED

[2](#). (SBU) The SSC on September 21 sentenced seven to hang, including would-be suicide bomber Sajidah al-Rishawi, for the November 2005 Amman Hotel bombings (ref A). The other six defendants -- Othman Ismail Dalimi; Hiam Hassan; Walid Hassan; Nihad Rishawi; Karim Jassim Fahdawi; and Mazen Mohammad Shehadeh -- were tried in absentia, and are believed to be in Iraq. The Court of Cassation will review the sentence. If the sentence is upheld, the King must sign a death warrant before the execution can take place.

KHALAYLEH SENTENCED

[3](#). (SBU) On September 27 the SSC sentenced Omar Jamil Nazzal al-Khalayleh (a cousin of the late terrorist Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi), Wissam Dimawi, and Riyadh Udwan to six months in prison for "subjecting the Kingdom to hostile acts." Hassan Salem Ajemi was handed a three-year prison term for "undermining Jordan's relations with another country." A fifth defendant, Raed Nawaysheh, who was tried in absentia, was given a five-year sentence for subjecting the Kingdom to hostile activities. The defendants, who were arrested in May, plotted to recruit fighters in Syria and then move into Iraq to fight against US and Iraqi forces, according to the GOJ. The defendants reportedly shouted, "God is great" upon hearing their verdicts (ref B.)  
BREIZAT CELL ) JIPTC PLOTTERS SENTENCED

[4](#). (SBU) On September 13, the SSC sentenced Ma'adh Breizat, Ibrahim Jahawha, and Faisal Rweidan to 20 years of hard labor for plotting attacks against Americans in Jordan. The three were initially sentenced to death; however the court amended the sentence to "give the defendants a second chance in life." Obada Hiyari received a ten-year sentence for plotting subversive acts. Upon hearing the verdict, the four men shouted, "God is great" and "God won't ignore tyrants, you criminals and enemies of Allah." According to the charge sheet, the defendants decided in late 2004 to attack Americans who were training Iraqi police officers. The defendants followed American instructors from the Jordan International Police Training Center to a house near the

American Embassy in Amman in August 2005. The defendants repeated their surveillance activities several times and were arrested by authorities on August 31, 2005 according to court documents (ref C).

#### SENTENCES IN KHATTAB BRIGADE CASE

15. (SBU) On September 13, the SSC handed down prison sentences ranging between 10 and 15 years hard labor to six men accused of having plotted to attack American citizens, nightclubs, liquor shops, and hotels in Amman and Aqaba. According to the GOJ, the defendants sought to spray cyanide on the doorknobs of nightclubs to poison customers, but could not buy the chemical without a license. They later switched plans to conduct their attacks using machine-guns, according to the indictment. The group's plot was foiled when four members of the group, Hamdi Ahmad Abdallah Ali, Lu'ay Hisham Abd-al-Qadir al-Sharif, Muhammad Hasan Uqlah al-Umri, and Muhammad Awdah Ali, were arrested in mid-September 2005. Two of the defendants, Usama Amin al-Shihabi and Haytham Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'di, were tried in absentia and are believed to be in Lebanon. The cell's members received weapons training in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon from the two fugitives, according to court papers (ref C).

#### TAXI DRIVER SENTENCED FOR WEAPONS SMUGGLING

16. (SBU) On July 19, the SSC sentenced Nizar Bahjat Al Rifai, a Jordanian taxi driver who worked the Amman-Damascus-Beirut route, to seven-and-a-half years in prison for smuggling arms from Lebanon to Jordan. The defendant was first handed a 15-year prison term for bringing six rifles and ammunition into the country in January, but the court immediately reduced the sentence "because the defendant is young and to give him a second chance in life." The defendant bought the weapons from a shop in Lebanon on January 15 and hid them over his car's gasoline tank, court papers said. While reentering Jordan via Syria, border control guards caught the defendant smuggling the rifles.

#### MAN SENTENCED FOR E-MAIL THREATS

17. (SBU) On July 13, the SSC sentenced a Syrian man to two-and-a-half-years in prison for sending e-mails in which he threatened terrorist acts in Jordan. Yousef Daghestani was first handed a five-year prison term by the SSC, but his sentence was immediately reduced "to give him a second chance in life because the defendant is young and lives away from home." Under the user name "911" and with the password "blood," the defendant posted threatening text in the Jordan Information Center's (JIC) online political forum following the November 9, 2005, triple bombings in Amman. The text of the e-mail read: "If you think that you have ended us then you are mistaken. Watch out for new and mass explosions at a strategic place, which has many infidels... I demand JD1 million in ransom and the release of my sister Sajida (referring to would-be suicide bomber Sajida Rishawi). Death has approached you infidels," according to court documents. In Daghestani's three-page written testimony, he claimed that Jordanian authorities subjected him to torture shortly after his arrest in late November 2005 (ref C).

#### JAAOURA TRIAL BEGINS

18. (SBU) The trial of Nabil Ahmad Issa Jaaoura, the Jordanian man who killed a British tourist and injured five others in a shooting at Amman's Roman Amphitheater in early September (ref D) began October 4. The five wounded tourists included two Britons, a Dutch national, a New Zealander and an Australian. The state prosecutor officially charged Jaaoura with carrying out terrorist attacks, causing the death of a person, and possessing an unlicensed gun, according to media.

Officials said Jaaoura confessed to the shootings, and that he claimed he sought revenge for the killing of his two brothers in an Israeli raid on Lebanon in 1982. Jaaoura claimed that the "Israeli aggression against Lebanon in August" pushed him to carry out his plans, court documents said. Shortly after his arrest, government officials announced that Jaaoura "worked alone and had no connection to any domestic or foreign organizations."

#### KARBOULI CASE OPENS

19. (SBU) On September 20, Ziyad Khalaf Karbouli pled not guilty to charges of murdering a Jordanian citizen in Iraq in September 2005. Karbouli, who appeared on Jordan state

television shortly after his arrest in May, confessed to killing Jordanian truck driver Khalid Dasouqi in September last year and abducting two Moroccan diplomats while on their way from Amman to Baghdad. During the trial, Karbouli shouted that "Dasouqi was a tyrant and an apostate," and "there are 4,000 Jordanian drivers working for the Americans in Iraq and there will be a Karbouli out there every day to kill them." He added that Arab leaders race to please and serve "Israelis and Americans, and if they kill us we will be martyrs but they will burn in hell." He finished his tirade by attacking Pope Benedict XVI for his recent remarks. Karbouli and 13 other suspects, who remain at large, are charged with plotting subversive acts that led to the death of an individual, possessing explosives with illicit intent, and belonging to an illegal organization. Karbouli's court-appointed lawyer Adel Tarawneh told the court on September 20 that Iraqis had the right to defend their country because foreign forces occupy it.

#### AIRPORT ATTACK CASE CONTINUES

¶10. (SBU) Proceedings against seven alleged al-Qaida militants charged with plotting to carry out suicide attacks against Amman's Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) and resort hotels at the Dead Sea continued throughout the summer. Four defendants -- a Libyan and three Iraqis -- have been in police custody since late February. The other three defendants -- two Iraqis and one Saudi -- are at large and are being tried in absentia. If convicted, all face the death penalty. On September 20, a police officer testifying in the case told the court he searched the Amman apartment of one of the Iraqi defendants, Abdul Karim Jamili, and found 3.6 kilograms of PE-4A heavy explosives concealed inside a children's construction game. According to the charge sheet, some of the suspects rented apartments in Zarqa (north of Amman) and Amman's Jabal Hussein neighborhood from which to launch attacks against hotels at the Dead Sea and Aqaba in July 2005, "because the hotels were frequented by Americans and Israelis." The group claims that the al-Qaida network in Iraq wanted to claim responsibility for the foiled attack (ref B.)

#### JAILOUSI PRISON BREAK: SSC TO ANNOUNCE VERDICT NOVEMBER 1

¶11. (SBU) The SSC announced that it will issue a verdict November 1 in the case of eight men standing trial for aiding Azmi Jaiousi in his failed bid to escape from prison. On April 25, the SSC charged Jaiousi, the mastermind behind an al-Qaida plan to launch chemical attacks in the Kingdom, and eight others with plotting a prison breakout. According to the prosecutor, Jaiousi and Mohammad Kutkut, both inmates at Swaqa prison, plotted the breakout shortly before Kutkut's release in November 2005. On his release, Kutkut contacted several militants to plan Jaiousi's escape, and later placed machineguns and ammunition in a getaway vehicle before heading to the prison in late January 2006, according to the prosecutor (ref B.)

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